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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

Suppression of the traffic in persons and of the exploitation of the prostitution of others

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

The present document contains information submitted by the Government of Italy, which was received after the preparation of document E/1992/49.

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Italy

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1. With regard to the measures adopted by Italy with a view to the implementation of the recommendations contained in Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/30, it should be noted that legislation - Act No. 216 - was enacted on 19 July 1991 on the initial steps to be taken on behalf of minors susceptible to involvement in criminal actions.

2. As far as punitive measures are concerned, attention should be drawn to article 11 of Act No. 203 of 12 July 1991 and to the amendments to articles 111 and 112 of the Penal Code, in view of the more severe penalties which result therefrom.

3. The legislator had already paid attention to provisions on the guardianship of minors in 1988, with Act. No. 327 of 3 August 1988, which established the applicability of preventive measures (verbal warnings, repatriation orders and special supervision) to anyone suspected of having induced another person to commit an offence "... which could endanger or impair the physical or moral welfare of minors" and of having profited therefrom, including, of course, cases of procuring.

4. At the administrative level, new instructions have been issued to the police authorities, requiring them to make increased efforts to investigate the offences mentioned in Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/30.

5. Operations carried out up to that time by the police led to the detection and successful prosecution of 1,061 offences in 1989, 1,192 offences in 1990 and 1,252 offences in 1991 up to and including September, in cases involving the exploitation of prostitution and complicity in such practices.

6. In addition, the number of women police officers, whose responsibilities include doing everything in their power to implement the objectives of the above-mentioned resolution, has recently been increased to 7,600.

7. Instructions have also been issued with a view to increasing the efficiency and thoroughness of searches for persons, particularly minors, who are arbitrarily cut off from their parents' authority by running away from home - searches which are being carried out in close cooperation with the Catholic International Education Office and the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) - and a comprehensive computerization programme is under way, designed to facilitate the monitoring of this problem and to improve preventive measures.